(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon along-with the details of long distance trains proposed to be extended?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) There have been some demands in this regard.

(b) Extension of trains including of Howrah-Ahmedabad Express, Madras-Ahmedabad Express etc. upto Gandhidham has been examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Waiting List for Telephones in Maharashtra

1390. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications registered in the waiting list for telephone connections in Maharashtra upto 30th June 1997, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections allotted so far;

(c) whether the Government have evolved any scheme for speedy allotment of telephone connections; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The information is given in the attached Statement.

(c) and (d) There is a plan to provide 225000 telephone connections in Maharashtra Telecome Circle and 226000 telephone connections in MTNL Mumbai during 1997-98.

Statement

For Maharashtra Telecom Circle

S. No.	Name of Telecom district	Waiting List as on 30.6.97	Status of Telephone connections as on 30.6.97
1	2	3	4
1.	Raigad	4348	38325
2.	Jalgaon	10876	37586
3.	Nasik	21271	79443
4.	Dhule	11846	18842
5.	Kolhapur	8218	74942
6.	Solapur	7703	44224
7.	Satara	8193	36257
8.	Sangli	11794	44419
9.	Ratnagiri	6790	17640
10.	Sindhudurg	2522	9048
11.	Ahmednagar	14743	47451
12.	Aurangabad	8008	41156
13.	Jalna	1173	8864
14.	Latur	2625	18831
15.	Osmanabad	2220	7465
16.	Nanded	3587	20476
17.	Parbhani	1754	13584
18.	Beed	2599	12083
19.	Pune	56349	255783
20.	Goa	13988	79445
21.	Nagpur	9875	101388
22.	Kalyan	60720	131231
23.	Akola	3030	25439
24.	Amravati	3324	30918
25.	Bhandara	2473	15199
26.	Buldana	2604	14301
27.	Chandrapur	3994	15916
28.	Gadchiroli	537	2589
29.	Wardha	2373	13054
30.	Yeotmal	3182	11877
	Total	292719	1267576
	For MTNL Mumbai	30792	1661106

[English]

Gauge conversion in Tamil Nadu

1391. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total length of rail track still to be converted into broad gauge in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the time by which the complete conversion is likely to take place;

(c) the details of sections likely to be completed by December' 1997;

(d) whether any additional grants are being considered to spend up the projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The total length of rail track to be converted into Broad Gauge in Tamil Nadu is 2612 Kms.

(b) Depends upon availability of funds and other resources.

(c) Tiruchchirappalli-Thanjavur parallel BG (50 Kms.)

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Development of Railway in West Bengal

1392. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received any representation from Members of Parliament regarding development of Railways in North and South Dinajpur (North Bengal);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A representation dated 20.9.96 from Shri Palas Barman, Ex. MP suggesting expeditions construction of Eklakhi-Balurghat new line and provision of at least 5 crores to the project during 1997-98 was received.

(c) The work is progressing well. The outlay has been increased to Rs. 10 crores in 1997-98 to expedite the work.

Demand of Steel in Maharashtra

1393. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the demand of steel in Maharashtra at present; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Demand assessment is made by the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel annually only on an all India basis.

(b) To augment supply of steel in the country, Government is facilitating creation of additional capacities in private sector. Modernisation/expansion of public sector steel plants has also been taken up. Import of steel is freely allowed and import duties have been gradually reduced, making imports cheaper.

[Translation]

Power Generation

1394. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Power output not even half of need" appearing in the 'Tribune' date June 27, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto and the power shortage noticed during the month of June, 1997 in the country;

(c) whether the power generation capacity in the country is 86,000 M.W.; and

(d) if so, the average percentage of power generation during the past years and actual annual generation of power, at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As against the peak requirement of 63419 MW during the month of June, 1997, the peak availability was 50.833 MW. The peak availability during April-June, 1997 is around 60% of the installed capacity. In June, 1997 energy generation went up by 8.2% over June. 1996, a performance not achieved since January, 1995. To improve the utilisation of existing capacity and to meet the projected increase in demand. Government is pursuing both short term and long term measures which, inter-alia, include, raising the PLF of existing stations. Renovation and modernisation of old plants, building of new capacities and price and institutional reforms in the power sector.

(c) Power generation capacity as on 30.6.97 is 86296 MW.

(d) The actual energy generation as a percentage of capacity for the last five years is as follows :-

S. No.	Years	Actual Peak power met (MW)	Power Generation as percentage of installed capacity
1.	1992-93	41984	58.0
2.	1993-94	44830	58.4
3.	1994-95	48066	59.2
4.	1995-96	49836	59.8
5.	1996-97	52376	60.6

Catering Charges in Rajdhani Express

1395. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of Catering charges included in the fare of various classes for the Rajdhani Express;

(b) whether the Catering services are provided to the passengers as per the norms; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?